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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DATE October 6, 1961

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. GERMANY-BERLIN. Soviet reporting of the September 30 meeting between Secretary RUSK and GROMYKO quoted the TUBBY statement that the meeting was cordial and useful, thus giving the impression of progress. Press reports on previous meetings had gone no further than giving their date and place. Pravda subsequently reported that the State Department had arranged a meeting with the President for Gromyko on October 6.

Meanwhile, the Soviet press published a mass of articles designed to give the impression of growing acceptance in the West of the Soviet proposals on Berlin and Germany. Statements by Senator FULBRIGHT and Danish Prime Minister KAMPMANN were followed by texts or excerpts from articles by Claremont College Professor Fred Warner NEAL and Erich FROMM, and by lengthy reports from the Rome Round Table and Warsaw Journalists' Conference, all implying support for the recognition of two German states.

On October 5, the Foreign Office made a mildly-worded oral statement to Ambassador THOMPSON, [redacted] 61

The GDR Ambassador in Moscow, Rudolf DOELLING, in a public lecture, reiterated the contention that the abuse of the air corridors "by the Americans" and the exploitation of West Berlin for "subversion" against the GDR would cease once the GDR had achieved full sovereignty as a result of the peace treaty.

2. EVENTS IN SYRIA. The Soviet press was markedly cautious in reporting Syria's reemergence as a separate state. Press coverage gave little indication of how Moscow would approach the question of recognition. However, the prompt and straightforward publication of news despatches, usually drawn from Western news sources, revealed great Soviet interest in the development. The press did not fail to report indications that the Syrian coup might be conservative and pro-Western and hence inimical to Soviet interests. On the other hand, it did not report that the KUZBARI Government had been recognized by Guatemala and Taiwan. To have done so would have conveyed the impression to the Soviet public that the new regime was ultra-reactionary.

3. OBSERVANCE OF CHINESE COMMUNIST NATIONAL DAY. The usual flurry of newspaper articles about Communist China, written in honor of the Chinese Communist national day of October 1, appeared before and after the date. The annual meeting of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society and the reception at the Chinese Communist Embassy were pushed up several days in keeping with Moscow diplomatic practice, in order to avoid having these ceremonies fall on Saturday or Sunday and thus inconvenicing Soviet officials whose attendance would be expected. As KHRUSHCHEV is absent from Moscow on vacation, the Soviet regime was represented by KOZLOV at the Chinese Embassy reception. In his speech, Kozlov did not deviate from the recent Soviet practice of completely ignoring the communes, the "leap forward", and the Chinese Communist "general line", although Chinese Ambassador

LIU HSIAO characteristically made these the first and main point of his speech. There was much protesting on both sides about bloc solidarity. However, these speeches and other material printed here on the occasion of the Chinese Communist national day suggest that Soviet and Chinese positions remain far apart in the ideological debate.

4. LAOS. Individual Soviet newspapers printed several isolated news items about Laos of considerable interest, noting, for example, the formation of a "neutralist Party" by SOUVANNA PHOUMA and the shooting down of two American planes, which had been "air-dropping rice" to PHOUMI units not far from Xieng Khuang. These bare reports were ignored by most news media and were not integrated into any general explanation of what is happening with regard to Laos either at Geneva or in Laos itself. The Soviet press generally preserved its silence of many months' standing on the Geneva Conference.

5. AFRICA. Developments in Ghana have been reported in the Soviet press in such a way as to leave the impression that the changes which NKRUMAH had initiated are anti-Western in character. Reports of the dismissal of General ALEXANDER and the replacement of British officers in the Ghana Army by Ghanaians were praised as "nationalist" in nature and hailed as "improvements" by Soviet papers. The Cabinet shake-up was also reported in this way in articles which relied on Western press statements that it represented a victory for the radical nationalists in Nkrumah's party.

The opening of the Guinean radio station "The Voice of the Revolution" was the occasion for a Pravda article which extended unusually warm praise to the Democratic Party of Guinea as "the genuine leader and organizer of the Guinean people." The article also stated that Guinea provides an excellent example for other African peoples. Pravda's praise of the Guinean Party was presented in language usually reserved for Communist parties.

6. VISITS. Cuban Communist leader Blas ROCA remained in Moscow throughout President DORTICOS's visit to Peiping. Dorticos returned to Moscow on October 3 and departed the following day for Havana. It is not clear from the press whether Roca accompanied him or remained behind for the CPSU Party Congress.

Further Soviet-Afghan visits have been exchanged following the recent trip by Afghan Foreign Minister NAIM to Moscow. The Afghan Minister of Industry, Mohammed YUSUF, arrived in Moscow on October 4 and a Supreme Soviet delegation, led by RSFSR Minister of Education AFANASENKO, was reported in Kabul.

Indonesia. Soviet Admiral C. G. GORSHAKOV was reported as heading a naval delegation visiting Djakarta.

The Moroccan delegation led by the Minister of Islamic Affairs departed after a month's trip in the USSR.

Portuguese CP leader Alvaro CUNHAL was reported visiting Moscow schools. Cunhal may be in Moscow for the Party Congress.

7. "PEACE MARCHERS" IN MOSCOW. A group of 30 pacifist "Peace Marchers," including 13 Americans, arrived in Moscow October 3 and was permitted by Soviet authorities to hold a silent demonstration in Red Square. The group is in the Soviet Union as "guests" of the Soviet Peace Committee. The arrival in Moscow was the climax of a nine-month "Trans-continental Walk for Peace" begun by some members of the group in San Francisco last December. On October 5, the group held a meeting with Soviet students at Moscow University, but, as of October 6, permission was being denied them to hold additional meetings or demonstrations in Moscow. Before receiving their Soviet visas, the group made a pledge not to indulge in the sort of civil disobedience which had marked their walk through the United States and Western Europe. The Soviet press gave moderate coverage to their trek to Moscow, portraying them as victims of persecution and harrassment in the West who received an open-hearted welcome in the USSR and the bloc countries. The press ignored their appeal for unilateral disarmament.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

8. LEADERSHIP: NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. The central press on October 3, 1961, announced the appointment as USSR Minister of A. K. KORTUNOV, who is Chief of the Main Administration for the Gas Industry attached to (pri) the USSR Council of Ministers.

The appointment of Kortunov apparently gives recognition to the increased importance of gas in the Soviet Union as a fuel and reinforces public statements made in Moscow upgrading its importance as an energy source. Plans call for gas (and oil) to supply most of the fuel needs in Moscow Oblast in the future, including even the production of electrical energy.

9. LEADERSHIP: KUUSINEN'S 80th BIRTHDAY. On October 3, the Soviet press reported that Presidium member and CC-CPSU Secretary O. V. KUUSINEN had been honored by the award "Hero of Socialist Labor" and the "Order of Lenin" as well as the gold medal "Hammer and Sickle". The awards were made on the occasion of Kuusinen's 80th birthday, and in recognition of his service to the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

The awards also constitute a gentle reminder of Kuusinen's advanced age and perhaps herald a future announcement of Kuusinen's retirement following which he would join his fellow octogenarian K. Ye. VOROSHILOV as a Soviet elder statesman.

10. LEADERSHIP: CPSU-CC BUREAU MEMBER IDENTIFIED. Chairman of the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet N. N. ORGANOV, who spoke at a recent Party conference in Altai Krai, was identified as a "member of the Bureau of the CPSU-CC for the RSFSR" (Sovetskaya Rossiya, October 6, 1961). According to Embassy records, this is the first indication that Organov, who was appointed to his RSFSR Supreme Soviet post on November 26, 1959, is also a member of the RSFSR Bureau.

11. YEVTUSHENKO AGAIN CRITICIZED. Scarcely two weeks after publication of his poem "Babiy Yar" in Literaturnaya Gazeta on September 18, Yevigeniy YEVTUSHENKO was criticized again for the third time. His poem, directed against Russian anti-Semitism, has aroused much interest, in part as a result of the vigor of his critics (Despatch 283, September 29, 1961). The most recent criticism directed against him is said to have originated with 140 young Soviet poets attending an All-Union conference. They criticized the poet for making "a big noise about questions of our life which were resolved long, long ago," but they conspicuously failed to mention that the central question raised in "Babiy Yar" is anti-Semitism in today's USSR.

12. VIGILANCE: DUTCH TOURISTS - "SPYS ASSOCIATED WITH AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE". On September 22, shortly after the September 5 report in Izvestiya of the conviction on a charge of espionage of an American citizen, Marvin William MAKINEN, the arrest of two Dutch auto tourists charged with espionage was announced (Pravda, September 22). This week, the Dutch tourists were sentenced to 13 years each under the same statute (Section 57 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code: "Espionage"), under which Makinen was sentenced to 8 years.

In the new spy affair, the role of American and NATO intelligence was emphasized. On October 5, Pravda even tied in CIA by asserting that the trial had a definite relation to Allan DULLES's retirement.

13. MOSCOW JEWS DANCE IN THE STREET. In a striking demonstration of the regime's failure to integrate Soviet Jews on Communist terms, over 4,000 Jews sang and danced in front of the Moscow Synagogue on October 2 in honor of the Jewish holiday, "The Joy of the Torah" (Despatch 297, October 3, 1961). The vitality of the Jewish community seemed to be underscored on this occasion by the fact that 80% of those who gathered were under 30 years of age and a majority in their teens or early twenties. Clearly many of these were not practising Jews, who, nevertheless, wished to identify themselves with Jewry on the occasion of a major holiday. The celebration served also to demonstrate the importance of the Israeli Embassy in Moscow to Moscow Jews wishing to retain their cultural and religious identity.

14. THE TROOPS OF THE "MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS". Reporting a meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Komsomol, Red Star on October 4, 1961, listed as among the groups participating representatives of the "troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs". The All-Union Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) was dissolved by decree on January 13, 1960, but at that time there was no clear indication of how its residual forces were to be distributed. Red Star's ambiguous reference suggests that MVD troops may still exist under a central unified command.

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For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:

R. T. Davies
First Secretary of Embassy

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